

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01

OPR-01 SY-04 SCCT-01 IO-04 OC-01 CCO-00 /065 W

----- 064022

O R 211425Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2975

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0931

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, MZ

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN LOURENCO MARQUES

1. OVER WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 1920, SERIES OF INCIDENTS AND RUMORS INCREASED ANXIETY IN LOURENCO MARQUES. REPORTS OF ARMS CACHES BEING DISCOVERED AND RENEWED STONING OF CARS BY AFRICANS ABOUNDED. ROADBLOCK SEARCHES FOR ARMS IN CARS WERE INTENSIFIED, WITH CIVILIANS HELPING FRELIMO TROOPS IN THE AFRICAN

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SURBURBS. A WHITE DRIVER WAS FATALLY SHOT WHEN HE FAILED TO

STOP AT ROADBLOCK. ON SUNDAY, ARREST OF WHITE PORTUGUESE
COMMANDO BY FRELIMO AND PORTUGUESE PATROL LED TO SUBSEQUENT
DISTURBANCES IN CITY, INCLUDING BARRAGE OF SHOTS AND GRENADES
EXPLODING IN EASTERN BEACH AREA.

2. TRANSITIONAL MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON
SUNDAY DISTURBANCES, MAIN POINTS OF WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED
BELOW:

(A) IN AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 20, (WHITE) PORTUGUESE SOLDIER
WAS ARRESTED AFTER HE REFUSED TO PAY (BLACK) SHOESHINE BOY
FOR SHINING HIS SHOES AND BEAT HIM UP. "REACTIONARY ELEMENTS"
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF INCIDENT TO PROVOKE DISTURBANCES DOWNTOWN.
ORDER WAS REESTABLISHED BY FRELIMO AND PORTUGUESE FORCES.

(B) HAVING FAILED IN THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT, SOME OF THE
AGITATORS SPREAD ALARMIST NEWS (REPORT THAT FRELIMO HAD
ARRESTED COMMANDO COLLEAGUES) AMONG TROOPS IN MILITARY
(COMMANDO) ENCAMPMENT LOCATED NEAR BEACH AND MINI-GOLF
ESTABLISHMENT, CREATING TENSION WHICH RESULTED IN SHOOTING
INTO THE AIR. CALM WAS RESTORED. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES OR
MATERIAL DAMAGES.

(C) COMMUNIQUE ENDED WITH WARNING THAT PORTUGAL AND FRELIMO
WILL NOT HESITATE TO ACT ENERGETICALLY TO PREVENT ATTEMPTS
TO CREATE DISTURBANCES, PUNISHING THOSE "SEEKING TO DISRUPT
DECOLONIZATION PROCESS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN MOZAMBIKAN
AND PORTUGUESE PEOPLES".

3. COMMANDING GENERAL OF POLICE INFORMED US MORNING OF
OCTOBER 21 THAT LOURENCO MARQUES PRESENTLY CALM BUT THAT
SITUATION GIVING RISE TO WEEKEND INCIDENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LOURENCO MARQUES APPEARS CALM, POTEN-
Tially EXPLOSIVE SITUATION EXISTS. SOME OF INCIDENTS HAVE
TAKEN ON DISTINCTLY RACIAL TONE, INCREASING BLACK/WHITE
SUSPICION. PORTUGUESE COMMANDOS APPEAR IN UGLY MOOD AND MIGHT
BE INCITED INTO DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH FRELIMO AND OTHER
PORTUGUESE TROOPS.

WALKER

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